(SRI D. DEVARAJ URS)

in half of this area is damaged or destroyed every year. The appoximate value of the paddy crop damaged or destroyed every year is about Rs. 24,000. The Deputy Commissioner, Belgaum, has reported that as a result of heavy rains recently this year damage has been caused to about 700 acres.

A scheme for the training of the nalla at a cost of 12.50 lakhs had been thought of earlier. But this scheme was dropped as it was found to be not feasible.

The alternative is to get the encroachment on both the sides of the nalla removed and to allow the free flow of water during the rainy season. The Deputy Commissioner has reported that action is being taken to evict encroachers over a distance of 6 to 8 miles.

The encroachers are not entitled to any relief from Government. However the question of giving some relief by way of remission of land revenue will be examined.

10-00 A. M.

(4) *Re*: HUNGER STRIKE OF WORKERS OF THE N.G.E.F.

Sri S. S. SHETTAR (Hubli).—On behalf of myself and Sriyuts, Bola Raghuram Shetty, S. Chandrakanth, N. Lakayya Naik, M. S. Krishnan, V. N. Patil and S. Gopala Gowda, I call the attention of the Minister for Home and Labour to the Hunger Strike of the workers of N. G. E. F.

Sri M. V. RAMA RAO (Minister for Home and Labour).—Regarding the fast described as Satyagraha, I would like to make this statement.

There are two unions in the New Government Electric Factory Ltd., Bangalore, *viz.* (1) N. G. E. F. Emyloyees ' Union; and (2) N. G. E. F. Workers' Union. The N. G. E. F. Employees' Union is the older one and is recognised by the management.

The N.G.E.F. Workers' Union has raised the following two demands:

(i) Transport facilities

(ii) Interim relief.

As regards demand No. (i), the Union has stated that the workers are coming to work spot from places from more than 15 miles away from the Factory and there is dire necessity of providing transport facilities. The Management have stated that it has clearly been made known to the workers even prior to their appointment that the management will not undertake to provide transport for the workers. Further, they have no funds to provide such facilities. Most of the workers are coming by City Bus Service and the management have requested the M. S. R. T. C. authorities to extend the terminus of the City Bus Service from Ulsoor

to the New Government Electric Factory Ltd. As such, the management have stated that it would not be possible to concede this demand.

As regards the second demand, the Union has complained that the management has not implemented the interim relief as recommended by the Central Wage Board for Engineering Industries. In respect of this Demand the management have stated that they have entered into a truce agreement with the N. G. E. F. Employees' Union, according to which the final recommendations of the Engineering Wage Board will be discussed mutually and a decision will be taken on the basis of these discussions. The present recommendation of the Wage Board is only for interim relief. In the meanwhile, the employees have been given the benefit of an additional D. A. subject to the condition that the enhanced rates of D. A. sanctioned will be adjusted towards the amount payable under the interim or final award of the Wage Board for Engineering Industries. The management have further stated that they have given minimum benefit of Rs. 20 and more than Rs. 20 in many cases. They take the position that no further interim relief is justified.

The conciliation proceedings were held in this regard on 2-8-1967 and they are due to be continued today.

(5) *Re*: COLLECTION OF PADDY UNDER PROCUREMENT POLICY COERCIVE STEPS TAKEN IN MUDIGERE TALUK

Sri K. H. RANGANATH (Mudigere).—I call the attention of the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies to the coercive steps taken in Mudigere Taluk in collecting the paddy under procurement policy.

Sri B. D. JATTI (Minister for Food and Civil Supplies).—Even in a year of normal seasonal conditions, Mysore State is marginally deficit in foodgrains, principally, rice. In recent years, however, due to unsatisfactory seasonal conditions, both the Central and the State Governments have increasingly recognised the need to safeguard the interests of vulnerable sections of the community in making available to them their minimal requirement of foodgrains at reasonable rates. Considering the food gap in Mysore State and magnitude of requirements, it would be impossible to achieve this and unless, Government were able to build up their own stock of food grains and issue it to the people at reasonable prices according to the prescribed scales. After examining all aspects, Government decided to procure a reasonable portion of foodgrains locally.

Procurement is undertaken with a view to (a) building up of buffer stock of foodgrains; and (b) equitable distribution of foodgrains under the control of Government at reasonable prices through a chain of fair price shops.

Only paddy, jowar, ragi and bajra are being procured under the levy orders. They are being procured on a 'Slab' system and levy is determined with reference to the growers holding. Only a limited